

## N E W S R E L E A S E

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### **Waiting Period for Unemployment Insurance Benefits Waived for Those Affected by the Freeze**

SACRAMENTO – In response to the extreme cold weather that has devastated crops in much of the state, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed an Executive Order waiving the one-week waiting period for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits for California workers unemployed as a result of the freeze that began on January 11.

The waiting period will be waived for six months on all freeze-related UI claims beginning with those filed the week of January 11. That means claimants will receive two weeks worth of benefits on their first check instead of one of those weeks serving as a waiting period. For 220 people who filed their claim before the necessary adjustments were made in the processing system, checks with one week's worth of benefits to pay for their waiting week are now being delivered.

"With the Governor's order waiving the required waiting period, our staff can ensure that eligible workers receive their unemployment benefits even more quickly," said Patrick Henning, Director of the state Employment Development Department (EDD). "We also are helping affected workers find new jobs through our Job Service program, including our Internet-based CalJOBS service (which matches workers with employers), and assisting growers to find workers for harvesting and other jobs."

The fastest and easiest option for individuals to file claims for UI benefits is on-line at [www.edd.ca.gov/fleclaim.htm](http://www.edd.ca.gov/fleclaim.htm). Claimants can also file by telephone (phone numbers are listed below).

As of Friday, February 2, EDD has received 2,997 UI claims statewide related to the affects of the freeze. Activity will continue to be closely monitored as the harvest of the state's citrus and other crops, which have been significantly damaged due to the freeze, continues.

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EDD employees, in partnership with local Workforce Investment Boards, state and local government agencies and other local organizations, continue to provide a wide variety of needed services, programs and information to those impacted by the freeze through the state's existing network of One-Stop Centers.

Twenty of these career centers, from Calexico in Imperial County to Marysville in Yuba County, have been designated by Governor Schwarzenegger to provide additional freeze-related services. These centers, which since the year 2000 have typically provided employment and training services, now offer temporary additional programs and services, including food programs, health care information, shelter location information and other vital services.

EDD staff are assisting workers in filing claims for UI benefits, beginning job searches and providing referrals to other needed services. In addition, EDD staff are helping employers with their labor needs and providing other assistance including labor market information, targeted recruitment, coordinated workforce preparation, use of facilities, and screening and scheduling interviews. Employers will also find information about the Farm Disaster Loan Guarantee program and other Food and Agriculture and Small Business Administration services in the freeze designated One-Stops.

While many of these federal and state funded programs require some right to work eligibility documentation, those without approved documentation will be referred to social services aid for which they are eligible to receive. That assistance can include hotel/motel rental vouchers; help in paying energy bills; referrals to community food banks, as well as primary care and health clinics; and information on Migrant Child Care and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. Those looking for such assistance should be prepared to present a picture ID, proof of rental agreement, or possibly a utility bill with their name and address printed on it.

Following are the telephone numbers for filing a UI claim and the locations of the One-Stop Centers that are offering freeze-related services.

UI Claim Filing Telephone Numbers:

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| English.....         | 1-800-300-5616 |
| Spanish.....         | 1-800-326-8937 |
| Cantonese.....       | 1-800-547-3506 |
| Mandarin.....        | 1-866-303-0706 |
| Vietnamese.....      | 1-800-547-2058 |
| TTY (non-voice)..... | 1-800-815-9387 |

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## Designated One-Stop Centers for Freeze Assistance:

| COUNTY             | CENTER   | ADDRESS  | PHONE #                          |
|--------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|
| El Dorado          | Job One One-Stop                                     | 4535 Missouri Flat Road, Suite 1A<br>Placerville, CA 95667 | (530) 642-5516                   |
| Fresno             | Workforce Connection                                 | 1680 E. Manning Avenue<br>Reedley, CA 93654                | (559) 637-2444                   |
| Imperial           | Calexico One Stop<br>Employment & Business<br>Center | 301 Heber Avenue<br>Calexico, CA 92231                     | (760) 768-7171<br>(760) 357-7760 |
| Kern               | Career Services Center North<br>– Delano             | 1816 Cecil Avenue<br>Delano, CA 93215                      | (661) 721-5800                   |
|                    | Career Services Center –<br>Southeast Bakersfield    | 1600 East Belle Terrace<br>Bakersfield, CA 93307           | (661) 635-2601                   |
| Kings              | Kings County One-Stop Job<br>Center                  | 124 North Irwin Street Hanford, CA<br>93230                | (559) 585-3532                   |
| Madera             | Madera County Workforce<br>Assistance Center         | 209 East 7 <sup>th</sup> Street<br>Madera, CA 93637        | (559) 662-4500                   |
| Merced             | Worknet Employment<br>Resource Center                | 1200 W. 16 <sup>th</sup> Street<br>Merced, CA 95340        | (209) 724-2100                   |
| Monterey           | One-Stop Career Center of<br>Monterey County         | 730 La Guardia Street<br>Salinas, CA 93905                 | (831) 796-3600<br>(800) 870-4750 |
| Riverside          | Workforce Development<br>Center                      | 1151 Spruce Street<br>Riverside, CA 92507                  | (951) 955-3100                   |
| San<br>Bernardino  | San Bernardino Employment<br>Resource Center         | 646 North Sierra Way<br>San Bernardino, CA 92415           | (909) 386-0884                   |
| San Diego          | North County Inland Career<br>Center                 | 463 North Midway Drive<br>Escondido, CA 92027              | (760) 871-1962                   |
| San Luis<br>Obispo | Creekside Career Center                              | 4111 Broad Street<br>San Luis Obispo, CA 93401             | (805) 788-2600                   |
| Santa<br>Barbara   | Workforce Resource Center-<br>Santa Barbara          | 1410 South Broadway, Suite A<br>Santa Maria, CA 93454      | (805) 614-1550                   |
| Santa Clara        | South County One-Stop                                | 7800 Arroyo Circle, Suite A<br>Gilroy, CA 95020            | (408) 846-1480                   |
| Stanislaus         | Alliance Worknet                                     | 629 12 <sup>th</sup> Street<br>Modesto, CA 95357           | (209) 558-9675                   |
| Tulare             | Tulare County Employment<br>Connection, Dinuba       | 199 North L Street<br>Dinuba, CA 93618                     | (559)-591-5065                   |
|                    | Tulare County Employment<br>Connection, Porterville  | 1063 W. Henderson Avenue<br>Porterville, CA 93257          | (559) 788-1400                   |
| Ventura            | West Oxnard Job and Career<br>Center                 | 635 South Ventura Road<br>Oxnard, CA 93030                 | (805) 382-6551                   |
| Yuba               | Yuba County One-Stop Center                          | 1114 Yuba Street<br>Marysville, Ca 95901                   | (530) 741-6213                   |

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